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Special Moldova Issue, June 2003

RALEIGH EXPORT ASSISTANCE CENTER TRADE BULLETIN

North Carolina - Moldova Partnership

The North Carolina - Moldova Partnership for Peace Program is based upon an agreement to link these two states together to better facilitate cooperation in the areas of civil emergency operations, expansion of markets, cultural, scientific and academic exchanges, and the coordination of humanitarian efforts of many governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In 1991, following the fall of the Berlin Wall, under the Partnership for Peace Program, President George Bush, Sr. created exchanges between Russian and Eastern European countries and states within the United States in order to increase cooperation and development. The state of North Carolina was declared a sister state with the country of Moldova in Eastern Europe.

The North Carolina - Moldova Partnership was formalized on April 22, 1999 by the Republic of Moldova and the State of North Carolina. It has since evolved into a partnership that includes the efforts of many more organizations and individuals to include private firms, civic organizations and non-profit agencies. The partnership is a bi-lateral association with planning committees in both North Carolina and the Republic of Moldova who work together in a cooperative effort to improve and enrich the lives of everyone it touches.

The North Carolina Secretary of State's office conducts ongoing agricultural, educational, economic, humanitarian and cultural projects to promote exchange between North Carolina and Moldova. For more information on the N.C. Secretary of State's efforts visit: <http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/Partnership/>.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture also promotes trade with Moldova through hosting and working with businessmen from Moldova who are interested in learning about North Carolina's agribusiness. For more information please contact International Trade Specialist Patrick Howard at N.C. Agriculture: (919) 733-7912 ext. 246.

LONG TERM EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Moldovans are especially interested in Western equipment and technologies for food processing and to a lesser extent packaging. Information technology products are also gaining wider acceptance in Moldova. Agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and other chemicals, and farming machinery are in high demand in Moldova.

Moldovan businesses view favorably their American counterparts, due to the latter's rigorous business standards and access to cash. Moldovans are generally willing to do joint business projects with American firms.

U.S. Embassy Commercial Section and BISNIS
The Commercial Section of the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova, in cooperation with the U.S. Commerce Department's BISNIS, helps U.S. exporters and investors to obtain better information about the Moldovan market. Occasionally, the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau and BISNIS will organize trade promotion events, offer counseling and agent/distributor search services and, where appropriate, project-specific advocacy.

For more information on Moldova and the Newly Independent States and long-term export opportunities visit www.bisnis.doc.gov or contact your local USEAC.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT MOLDOVA

Population: 4.4 million

Languages: Moldovan, Russian, Gagauz

Chief of State: President Vladimir Voronin

Head of Government: Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev

Principal U.S. Exports: Meat, milling, malt & starch, machinery, electrical machinery, fats & oils, perfumery & cosmetics, rubber, books & newspapers, vehicles, and prepared meat, fish, etc.